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# REPORT

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the  
WARMINSTER AND WESTBURY  
RURAL DISTRICT

for the year

**1945**

Presented to the  
Warminster & Westbury Rural District Council  
by

**D. F. MORGAN**

Medical Officer of Health of the  
Warminster and Westbury Rural  
Sanitary Authority.



WESTBURY, WILTS :  
A. E. & H. HOLLOWAY, EDWARD STREET,  
1946.



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# REPORT

on the HEALTH and SANITARY CONDITIONS of the WARMINSTER and WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT for the Year 1945.

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COUNCIL OFFICES,  
WARMINSTER,  
WILTS.  
JULY, 1946.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WARMINSTER AND WESTBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the District for 1945. It is now possible to give a more complete report than in the War years.

Dr. H. L. Blackley relinquished his position as Acting Medical Officer on my return from the Forces in January, 1945.

Mr. Piper, Assistant Surveyor and District Sanitary Inspector was still serving in H.M. Forces (at the time of writing this report, your application to the Ministry for his release had been granted, and Mr. Piper returned to his normal duties in February, 1946).

I would like to thank the Members of the Council for their assistance during the year, and the members of the staff who have helped in the work of the Public Health Department. In particular, I would like to record with gratitude the great help given by the N.S.P.C.C. (through their Salisbury Officer) in improving some of the bad conditions of certain families in the Rural District.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant.,

D. F. MORGAN.

## (1) OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health—

D. F. Morgan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—

W. F. C. Merrett, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., A.M.I.B.E.

District Sanitary Inspector and Assistant Surveyor—

C. S. Piper, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (serving with H.M. Forces during the year).

Assistant to Sanitary Inspector—

R. Green.

Clerk—Mrs. Penn.



(2) **STATISTICS.** Figures for 1944 are shown in brackets.

Area of District	87,096 acres.	(87,096)
Resident Population	11,850	(12,490)
No. of Inhabited Houses	3,753	(3,750)
Rateable Value	£53,505	(£53,395)
Production of Penny Rate	£231 1s. 1d.	(£234 13s. 3d.)

### (3) **SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.**

The Area is chiefly Agricultural and there are approximately 427 farms in the area, of which 30 produce T.T. milk and 75 are Accredited.

There is one Leather Tannery, an Umbrella Factory, Agricultural Machine factories, outworkers employed in glove making, brickworks, Malting and Grist Mills, Milk Factory and various W.D. properties.

The District, situated on the western part of Salisbury Plain, is well watered, and during the War, several War Department Water Supplies had been in operation. It is earnestly to be hoped that these supplies will become available to implement the Regional Water Supply Scheme in due course. Many villages in the District have still to rely on shallow wells for their water ; such supplies are liable to fail after periods of drought, and are always in danger of pollution.

**Housing** has been the biggest problem of the District during the year, and in order to gain an accurate picture of the conditions, and especially of the black spots in the District, a Housing Survey is necessary, as recommended by the Rural District Councils' Association.

### (4) **VITAL STATISTICS.**

(a) <b>Live Births.</b>				Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...		89	84	173
Illegitimate	...	...		20	11	31
Totals	...	...		109	95	204

LIVE BIRTH RATE for the DISTRICT 17.2

„ „ „ England & Wales  
(generally) 16.1

		1942	1943	1944	1945
PREVIOUS YEARS,	District	16.16	11.9	18.4	17.2
	England & Wales	15.8	16.5	17.6	16.1

#### (b) **Stillbirths.**

Legitimate Male, 3 ; Female, 3 ; Total 6.  
No Illegitimate.

STILL-BIRTH RATE for the District per 1,000 total Pop. 0.51  
„ „ „ England & Wales „ „ „ 0.46

(c) **Deaths.**

Male, 87 ; Female, 94 ; total, 181. (See table of causes of Death.)

DEATH RATE per 1,000 Population 15.3

„ „ „ „ England & Wales 11.4

1942 1943 1944

PREVIOUS YEARS District ... 13.6 8.6 13.2

England & Wales 11.6 12.1 11.6

(d) **Infant Mortality.**

Deaths of Infants under 1 year : Male, 3 ; Female, 2 ; total, 5.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births.

The District 25

„ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ England & Wales 46

(e) **Maternal Mortality.**

Women dying in or in consequence of—

(a) Childbirth NIL.

(b) Puerperal Sepsis „

(c) Other Maternal Causes „

(f) **Causes of Death.**

See Registrar General's Figures. Male. Female. Total.

(1) Typhoid Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
(2) Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
(3) Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
(4) Tuberculosis of respiratory system	3	1	4
(5) Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	1	1	2
(6) Influenza ...	—	1	1
(7) Cancer of stomach & Duodenum	3	2	5
(8) Cancer of Breast ...	—	1	1
(9) Cancer of all other sites ...	10	6	16
(10) Diabetes ...	—	2	2
(11) Intracranial vascular lesions ...	5	13	18
(12) Heart disease ...	27	36	63
(13) Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
(14) Bronchitis ...	7	5	12
(15) Pneumonia ...	3	2	5
(16) Other respiratory disorders ...	4	1	5
(17) Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	—	2
(18) Appendicitis ...	—	1	1
(19) Other digestive disorders ...	1	3	4
(20) Nephritis ...	4	1	5
(21) Congenital malnutrition, birth injuries, infant disorders ...	3	1	4
(22) Road traffic ...	1	1	2
(23) Other violent causes ...	3	1	4
(24) All other causes ...	9	12	21
Complete Totals ...	87	94	181

## (5) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Infectious Diseases were notified as occurring among civilians during the year :—

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Ot.	Nov.	De.	Total
Pneumonia	2	3				1				1			7
Measles		54	55	45	44	8	6	1					213
Scarlet Fever		1	1			1		3		3			9
Dysentery (Sonne)		3					1						4
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis			1			1							2
Whooping Cough			3	2	1					2			8
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										1			1
Totals	2	61	60	47	45	11	7	4	0	7	0	0	244

**Measles.** An outbreak of measles occurred in February at the Royal School, Longleat, altogether 44 cases were notified but none of these was fatal.

Other outbreaks occurred at Dilton Marsh in March (40 cases) and Bratton-Edington (39 cases) in May. Dilton Marsh Infants' School was closed from 21/3/45 to 28/3/45 (the commencement of the holiday), and Bratton School from 14/5/45-18/5/45 (the commencement of the holiday).

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under the County Council's Scheme for Free Immunisation against Diphtheria, the Council's M.O. visited Schools in the District. 22 such visits were paid. The following numbers indicate the immunisations as at 31st Dec., 1945 :—

	Ages 0-4 years	Ages 5-14 years	Total.
Estimated mid-year population	798	1550	2348
No. immunised at any time up to 31/12/45	410	1464	1874

Special emphasis is laid on the necessity of immunising children before they commence school. At this period, diphtheria is the most dangerous. After immunisation, it is necessary to increase the child's resistance by a small injection given about five years afterwards.

### Contacts.

With the return of people from overseas who had been in contact with various infectious diseases, those who came into the District were kept under observation during the Quarantine Period. None of the contacts developed the diseases.

TYPHUS	2 contacts.
SMALLPOX	4 contacts.



## Tuberculosis.

### NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1945.

Including "Transfers in." Civilians only.

#### NEW CASES

#### DEATHS

Age	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0								
1				1				
5			2					
15								
25	3	2						
35	1	1						
45	1							
65 & upward.								
Total	5	3	2	1	3	1	1	1

Of the New Cases, two were cases originally notified in other places who moved into the District.

As in Hospitals and Sanatoria throughout the Country, shortage of nursing and domestic staff became a very serious problem. The lists for sanatorium beds were long, and patients had to wait for considerable periods before they could be admitted for Treatment.

The number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year is given below, but this must include a number for whom, owing to their having had treatment privately, no records are readily available.

Number of cases on Register at 31/Dec./45 :—

Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary		
Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
30	23	53	22	19	41
Grand Total		94			

#### (6) HOSPITALS, etc.

There are no hospitals in the Rural District, and it is therefore served by the following general hospitals in the vicinity :—

Trowbridge and District Hospital.  
 Westbury Hospital.  
 The Prideaux Hospital, Westbury.  
 Warminster Hospital.  
 Devizes and District Hospital.

## **Special Hospitals.**

Tuberculosis (pulmonary): Winsley Sanatorium; Harnwood Hospital, Salisbury; wards at Salisbury Isolation Hospital, and Tower House E.M.S. Hospital, Salisbury, and Devizes Isolation Hospital.

Surgical Tuberculosis is treated at the Bath Orthopaedic Hospital; Beekford Lodge, Warminster (by arrangement with the Dorset County Council); and at Stratton St. Margaret E.M.S. Hospital.

Isolation Hospitals: Cases are admitted to the Trowbridge and District Isolation Hospital, as the Warminster Hospital continued to function as a Children's Home for the County Council.

Maternity Hospitals: There are Maternity Wings at Trowbridge and District Hospital, and Salisbury Infirmary and at Bath.

The Old Hospital, Melksham, and Berryfields, Bradford-on-Avon, served as Emergency Maternity Homes.

## **Ambulance Facilities.**

There is no ambulance provided by the R.D.

General cases were accommodated in the ambulances at Trowbridge, Westbury and Warminster—including the B.R.C.S. ambulances at Trowbridge and Warminster.

For Infectious Diseases, the Trowbridge Isolation Hospital ambulance was sufficient for the District.

The Volunteer Car Pools Service was ended in June, 1945, having given excellent and much appreciated service during the War years. So much was its loss felt that towards the latter part of the year a Hospitals' Car Service was inaugurated.

## **Staffs.**

The nation-wide shortage of nursing and domestic staff was keenly felt in the Hospitals serving the District and imposed a great strain on all personnel. It is greatly to the credit of the staffs that none of the General or Isolation Hospitals were closed during the year and at no time was it necessary to treat Infectious Cases in their own homes.

## **Clinics.**

The following Clinics, arranged by the County Council, were in operation during the year:—

INFANT WELFARE	Trowbridge	every Tuesday, 2 p.m.
	Westbury	1st and 3rd Mondays of month at 2 p.m.
	Warminster	1st and 3rd Fridays of month at 2 p.m.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

Trowbridge (The Halve) every Wednesday morning, 10 a.m.  
Salisbury (O.P.D., The Infirmary) every Tuesday morning, 10 a.m.

#### ORTHOPÆDIC.

Salisbury Trowbridge Devizes	}	by invitation from C.C. or from patient's own Dr.
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#### VENEREAL DISEASES.

	MEN.	WOMEN.
Royal United Hospital, Bath ... ..	Fri., 5 p.m. Sat., 5 p.m.	Tues., 5 p.m. Fri., 2.30 p.m.
Corsham C.C. Clinic ...	—	Mon., 5 p.m.
Devizes & District Hospital	—	Thurs., 5 p.m.
Salisbury Infirmary ...	Tues., 11.30 a.m. Fri., 6 p.m.	Wed., 6 p.m. Sat., 11.30 a.m.
Trowbridge C.C. Clinic (The Halve) ... ..	Thurs., 5 p.m.	Tues., 5 p.m.
and at Swindon.		

#### EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (SCHOOL).

By invitation from C.C. only.

#### Diphtheria Immunisation.

Warminster—fourth Friday of every month.

Westbury—No regular Clinics.

In the Rural Areas, the Assistant County M.O. visits the schools at selected dates.

#### Laboratory.

Water Samples and Bacteriological Specimens are analysed at the Salisbury General Infirmary.

Milk Sampling has now been taken over by the Sampling Offices of the War Agricultural Executive Committee.



## Nursing Arrangements.

### Midwives and Health Visitors.

Southwick North Bradley Heywood	}	Nurse F. E. Hargreaves, Alcester Cottage, North Bradley
Dilton Marsh		Nurse A. Matthews, Dilton Nursing Assn. Cottage, Dilton Marsh.
Bratton Edington East Coulston	}	Nurse F. Starritt, The Weir Avon, Edington.
Chapmanslade Upton Scudamore Imber Corsley	}	Nurse M. J. Spire, 26 Market Place, Warminster. Nurse S. L. Blandford, 9A The Close, Warminster.
Horningsham Bishopstrow Norton Bavant Heytesbury Knook Upton Lovell Boyton	}	Nurse E. Perrett, York House, Heytesbury.
Codford Chitterne Sherrington Stockton (Wyllye)	}	Nurse L. R. Bartrum, Codford.
Longbridge Deverill Brixton       ,, Kingston       ,, Sutton Veny	}	Nurse M. Chapman, Longbridge Deverill.
West Ashton Steeple Ashton Hinton Keevil Bulkington	}	Vacant.

### (7) HOUSING.

In common with all other districts, the housing problem became very acute in 1945. The return of personnel from the Forces, increasing families and normal wear and tear on houses already substandard has added to the difficulties created by lack of construction during the War years.



Of 3,753 inhabited houses in the District, 214 were Council Houses and 14 Agricultural Cottages.

Two Agricultural Cottages were completed in 1945 at Tytherington and one house privately.

The Average number of people per house was, therefore, 3.16, and to this number must be added the floating population in camp areas, etc.

The possibility of housing some of the population temporarily in Military Establishments (e.g., Bury Camp, Codford, and Longleat Hospital) was considered by the Council, and the Ministry was approached, but without permission being obtained.

It is more difficult to maintain a good housing standard in a Rural than an Urban District because of the distances involved in laying services. Considering this, there is a very great task ahead to reduce overcrowding and improve our present standard of accommodation.

The Council has agreed upon the necessity for a Housing Survey as a basis from which to start improvements as soon as the opportunity occurs.

### Rehousing Schemes and Post-War Development.

Much time was devoted to Post-War Housing Schemes and the selection of the Sites in various parishes was pushed forward, and at the end of the year the position was:—

Parishes.	Approval of Sites.	Negotiations to Purchase.
Bapton	+	
Bratton	+	Alternatives Considered.
Brixton Deverill	+	+
Bulkington	Provisional.	+
Chapmanslade	+	+
Codford	+	+
Corsley	+	+
Corton	+	+
Dilton Marsh	+	Alternatives Considered.
Edington	+	+
East Coulston	+	
Heytesbury	+	+
Heywood	Not yet.	
Hinton	+	
Keevil	+ and chosen.	
Monkton Deverill	+	+
North Bradley	+	+
Southwick	+	+
Steeple Ashton	+	+
Stockton	Provisional.	
Sutton Veny	Not yet.	
West Ashton	+	+

### **The Building Scheme for the R.D. envisages—**

a first batch of 102 houses, including 20 at Dilton Marsh, 18 at Corsley, 16 at North Bradley, 12 at Bratton, 12 at Codford, 14 at Steeple Ashton and 10 at Stockton.

### **Requisitioned Properties.**

Several requisitioned houses became vacant during the year and these were de-requisitioned and returned to the owners. Those still requisitioned and in use as dwelling houses were kept under close observation as many of these were below normal Housing Standard.

### **Overcrowding.**

Where cases of overcrowding occurred, full investigation of the facts was made and reported to the Council.

No Statutory Action was considered possible.

### **Unsatisfactory Homes.**

In several houses in the District, there appeared to be grounds for reporting conditions to the N.S.P.C.C., after informal visits. No cases were the subject of legal action, but improvements in the circumstances in almost every case have justified the time spent on these homes.

Great help was given by the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector. The bad circumstances in these families were in the majority of cases due to inability and ignorance on the part of the parents of the correct way to run a home. There is great need for Domestic Training to be given in the Schools. I would like also to stress two important points in this direction. First, it is common to see young children playing about until late in the evening, when they should be in bed. This evil practice was condemned in the 1938 Annual Report by Dr. Lawrence, then M.O.H., and I again stress that to let young children stay up late and have insufficient rest is foolish in the extreme. Both the parents and children suffer in health and temper, and this leads to neglect of the children, and deterioration in their health. Secondly, there is the bad practice of leaving young children alone in the house at night while the adults go out for amusement, e.g., to the pictures. Young children are subject to night terrors, and panicky fears. They cannot be hardened to these fears, as they can be hardened to physical strain. If we are to produce a race healthy in mind and body, common sense on the part of the parents is essential, and self-sacrifice on their part will be abundantly repaid in later years.



## Housing Inspections.

The activities of the department with regard to housing were considerably hampered by lack of trained staff, and the shortage of materials and man-power. Routine Inspections were not possible and although some action was taken under the Housing Act, in the main, urgent matters were dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Most of the improvements and repairs were brought about by Informal Action.

No houses were condemned during the year due to shortage of suitable accommodation.

When material and labour are again available, and when there is sufficient alternative accommodation, it will be possible to deal with the many substandard dwellings in the District.

Valuable information for this purpose will be forthcoming from the Housing Survey.

## Infested Houses.

Attention is drawn to the provisions of Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936, whereby the owner or occupier of verminous premises used for human habitation is obliged to remedy the infestation.

Actually it is our practice to carry out the disinfestation and expenses may then be recovered from the owner or occupier.

With the introduction of the new disinfestants (D.D.T., Gammexane and Lethane) disinfestation can be made a more effective measure than hitherto.

Several houses were dealt with—one for beetles and three for fleas—by the staff, and in other cases, supplies of disinfestants were available for the householders.

## (8) WATER SUPPLIES.

Piped water supplies were available in the following parishes :

Bapton	...	...	Private supply.
Bishopstrow	...	...	Warminster U.D.C.
Boyton	...	...	Boyton Estate.
Bratton	...	...	Two supplies (one R.D.C. & one private).
Chapmanslade	...	...	R.D.C.
Corsley	...	...	R.D.C. & a private supply (Longleat).
Dilton Marsh	...	...	Westbury U.D.C.
East Coulston	...	...	One R.D.C. & one private supply.
Heytesbury	...	...	Heytesbury Estate (also to Knook Camp).
Heywood	...	...	R.D.C. & private.
Horningsham	...	...	Longleat Estate (two).
Keevil	...	...	Private.
Longbridge Deverill			Longleat Estate.

North Bradley	...	R.D.C. (Trowbridge & Melksham supply).
Southwick	... ..	R.D.C. ( " " " " ).
Steeple Ashton	...	R.D.C. & R.A.F., Keevil.
Stockton	... ..	Two private supplies (Estate).
Sutton Veny	...	R.D.C. (and camps).
Upton Scudamore	...	R.D.C. (Trowbridge).

Several large villages are without piped supplies, but provision is made for these in the Regional Water and Sewerage Schemes.

### Regional Water Scheme.

The Scheme was submitted by the Council to the Ministry of Health and the County Council

Briefly it provides for:—

(1) The South-East, South-West and West Zones to be supplied from a single source at Codford.

(2) The North-East Zone to be supplied from Bratton.

(3) One small supply for Chitterne in the East Zone.

### Water Sampling.

The following reports were received during 1945.

Supply.	Date.	Pollution.
Boyton	10/1/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	31/5/45	Appreciable. " "
	20/7/45	" " "
	22/11/45	Negligible. " "
Bratton	7/2/45	No evidence whatsoever.
(Castle Hill).	28/6/45	Gross Surface, Negligible Fæcal.
Council's supply	27/7/45	Heavy, Fæcal.
	25/9/45	Heavy surface.
	11/12/45	Gross. Slight Fæcal.
	15/5/45	(Reservoir). Gross surface and appreciable Fæcal.
Bratton (Mr. King-Church)	24/5/45	(Spring). Appreciable Surface, Non Fæcal.
	24/5/45	(Reservoir) No evidences whatsoever.
	13/7/45	Appreciable. Non Fæcal.
	27/7/45	Some. Non Fæcal.
	11/12/45	(Reservoir). Gross. Some Fæcal.
	16/2/45	No evidences whatsoever.
Chapmanslade	26/6/45	Moderate. Non Fæcal
	26/9/45	Slight surface.
	19/11/45	Some. Non Fæcal.
	16/2/45	No evidence whatsoever.
Corsley	26/6/45	" " "
	26/9/45	" " "
	19/11/45	Some. Non Fæcal.



East Coulston	7/2/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
Baynton House	28/6/45	Gross. Fæcal.
* †	27/7/45	„ „
	24/8/45	Heavy. Considerable Fæcal.
	18/12/45	Slight. Minimal Fæcal.
East Coulston	7/2/45	No evidences whatsoever.
Borehole	27/7/45	„ „ „
	18/12/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
Edington	18/12/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
Heytesbury	10/1/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	20/7/45	„ „ „
	22/11/45	No evidences whatsoever.
Heywood	29/6/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	26/9/45	„ „ „
	19/11/45	„ „ „
Hinton Pump	9/2/45	Gross surface, including Fæcal.
	16/2/45	Gross Fæcal.
*	23/2/45	Some Fæcal.
	27/2/45	(Spring) Slight. Minimal Fæcal.
	13/9/45	Gross fæcal.
	18/12/45	„ and slight Fæcal.
Horningsham	16/2/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	20/4/45	Gross surface. Non Fæcal.
	26/6/45	Minimal. Non Fæcal.
	26/9/45	Moderate. Minimal Fæcal.
	19/11/45	Minimal. Non Fæcal.
	19/11/45	(Reservoir) Considerable. Non Fæcal.
Keevil (Pump)	9/2/45	Heavy surface. Non Fæcal.
	15/6/45	Gross surface. „ „
*	15/9/45	„ „ „ „
	18/12/45	Considerable. Appreciable Fæcal.
Longbridge	10/1/45	Appreciable. Non Fæcal.
Deverill	17/4/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	26/9/45	Minimal surface.
	19/11/45	Very heavy. Non Fæcal.
Sherrington	10/1/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
	31/5/45	Heavy. Slight Fæcal.
	20/7/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
	22/11/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
Steeple Ashton	24/5/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	13/9/45	„ „ „
	11/12/45	Slight Fæcal.

Stockton Estate	10/1/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	31/5/45	Very slight. Non Fæcal.
	20/7/45	Slight. Non Fæcal.
	22/11/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
Stockton (Mr. Yeatman-Biggs)	31/5/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	20/7/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	22/11/45	" " "
Sutton Veny	10/1/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	17/4/45	Negligible. Non Fæcal.
	20/7/45	" " "
Upton Scudamore	16/2/45	No evidences whatsoever.
	26/6/45	Negligible Non Fæcal..
	26/9/45	Heavy surface.
	19/11/45	Some. Non Fæcal.
Codford—well at Hostel (Little Ashton)	11/1/45	No evidences whatsoever 8 hrs. after chlorination.
	17/4/45	No evidences whatsoever.

\* Indicates that Notices Requiring the Water to be Boiled before Domestic Use were in force.

† Chlorination temporarily adopted or other measures taken (e.g., Cleaning Reservoir).

#### (9) SEWERAGE.

The Council is responsible for its own works in the following parishes. The list excludes premises drained individually.

Bratton	...	...	...	Council Houses.
Chitterne	...	...	...	" "
Codford ...	...	...	...	" "
Corsley ...	...	...	...	" " (Two works).
Dilton Marsh	...	...	...	" "
Heytesbury	...	...	...	" "
Heywood	...	...	...	" "
Hill Deverill	...	...	...	" "
Hinton ...	...	...	...	" "
Keevil ...	...	...	...	" "
North Bradley	...	...	...	" "
Steeple Ashton	...	...	...	" "
Southwick ...	...	...	...	" " (Two works).
Upton Scudamore.				
Westbury (Storridge).				

There are Military Disposal works at the Longbridge Deverill and Knook Camps.

Shortage of our staff and the extra duties imposed during the War and post-War periods have made it difficult to carry out routine inspections of these works at regular intervals.

## **Regional Sewerage Scheme.**

Together with the Regional Water Scheme, details were submitted to the Ministry of Health and the County Council during the year.

The proposals provide for the area to be sewered in nine parts, with the erection of 31 pumping stations and three new disposal plants. The existing disposal plants of the neighbouring Urban Districts and the Military Works now in use would be utilised.

## **(10) REFUSE AND SALVAGE.**

As in the War years, all villages in the District now have Refuse Collections, with which is incorporated Salvage.

Collections are made weekly, fortnightly or monthly, according to the size and requirements of the locality, by the Council's vehicle.

There are three tips—one at Penleigh, one at Sutton Veny, and one at Boyton.

Tipping is semi-controlled, and the sites were visited by the Rodent Officer.

## **(11) COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.**

Routine Farm and Cowshed Inspections were not possible during the year, but every effort was made to preserve the structure of milk producing premises and to advise farmers in clean milk production methods.

Early souring of milk is usually due to unclean methods of production or storage, and the causal agents are microscopic; therefore, though a milker may be using utensils which are clean to the eye, they may be still heavily contaminated bacteriologically. While milking cannot be made a surgically clean operation, it is generally recognised that a sterile water supply and hygienic methods of milking and cooling are essential.

The Wilts War Agricultural Executive Committee's Officers did the Sampling of the Milk and reports were forwarded to the appropriate authority on complaint for investigation.

The numbers of improvements effected are given in the tables at the end of this report.

## **(12) EVACUEES.**

At the end of the year there were 105 evacuees left in the District. Children returning to their homes under the Ministry Schemes were all examined before departure. Apart from one or two mild infestations with nits, these appeared to be quite healthy. These infestations were reported to the Reception Authority.



The Hostel for Evacuated Children at Codford was closed down during the year. Appreciation was expressed of the splendid way in which the Matron(Mrs. Angus) and her staff had worked during the War, and of the happiness and excellent health of the children.

### (13) **CIVIL DEFENCE.**

The Civil Defence Services were disbanded in 1945 at the end of hostilities. Many people had worked hard to make these services a success, and while we had not, fortunately, to call often on them, their example of public spirit was of great value in raising morale.

Many villages in the District had excellent First Aid Posts and Points, and the volunteers worked with enthusiasm to produce first-class defence units.

### (14) **RATS AND MICE.**

A part-time Rodent Officer was appointed, his duties being shared with the Warminster and Westbury Urban Districts.

This appointment was sanctioned by the Ministry of Food.

The Officer is available to visit private premises in the locality, and a small charge is made for his services.

### (15) **CAMPING SITES.**

Licences for the use of four Camping Sites were in force—Two at Southwick, one at Bratton and one at North Bradley.

### (16) **SWIMMING BATHS.**

Shearwater Lake is the only Public Swimming Place in the District, and is situated on the Longleat Estate.

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Appended are statistics of the Sanitary Work done during the year.

#### **Farm Inspection, 1945.**

	GRADES.			
	Ordinary.	Accredited.	T. Tested.	Total.
No. on Register.	322	75	30	427
Number of Inspections	...	86.		
Number of Farms improved	...	22.		
New Registrations during year		2.		
Milkshops inspected	...	...	1.	
Inspections	...	...	6.	

**Graded Milk.** (Special Designation Order). Administered by Wilts County Council.



## **Rats and Mice Destruction Act.**

### **RATS & MICE SURVEY,**

Survey commenced in August, 1945.

Premises Inspected.	Premises Treated.
370	38

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## **Factory and Workshop Acts.**

Number on Register, 35; No. Inspected, 15; No. of Inspections, 21; Notices, 3; Prosecutions, Nil.

One new Registration during the year (Carpenter's Shop, Crockerton).

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## **Nuisances, Public Health Act.**

No. of Written Complaints received, 25; No. Satisfactorily Abated, 18.

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## **Housing Act, 1936.**

No. Houses Inspected, 43; No. of Inspections, 60; Notices, 5; Notices complied with 5.

Work carried out without Formal Action being taken, 40.

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## **Butchers and Meat Shops.**

No. Inspected, 4; No. Inspections, 30.

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## **Meat and Food Condemned.**

120 dozen cakes. Damaged.

500 bags American Flour = 25 Tons (Salvaged by the Ministry of Food for Cattle Food). Damaged.

41 tins Condensed Milk. Blown and damaged.

3 Tins Meat. Blown.

74½lbs. Meat. Putrid.

28lbs. Oatmeal. Damaged and mouldy.

62ozs. Chocolate. Damaged.

98lbs. Ham. Putrid.

20lbs. Pilchards. Blown and damaged.

4½lbs. Sardines. Damaged.

26lbs. Salt. Damaged.

60lbs. Potatoes. Rotten.

8043lbs. Biscuits. Damaged and mouldy (Some salvaged by Ministry of Food for animal food).

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## **Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

No. Inspected, 3; No. Visited, 5; Notices, 2; Notices complied with, 2.





